

Transportation Public Forum

March 23, 2015 * CSU Meeting & Training Facility

City Manager Kelly Templin welcomed the attendees and noted that tonight's topic was mobility and transportation. He explained the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee and said the group's priority list would go to the city council in May. Templin invited citizens to offer their input tonight or via email. He also noted that the city had the capacity to have from \$45-60 million in bond projects without raising the tax rate.

CAC Co-Chair Rod Thornton said the committee has been looking at various projects since January and were requesting input from the general public. He said the committee wants to prioritize what the community needs and provide a prioritized list to the city council in May.

Transportation and Mobility Subcommittee Co-Chair Tedi Ellison introduced the members of the subcommittee and provided an overview of tonight's agenda.

Public Works Director Donald Harmon reviewed 2008 bond projects, including current projects:

- Barron Road Widening Phase 2 was done in advance of the new College Station High School.
- Victoria Avenue.
- Extension of Penberthy.
- Hike and Bike trail completion.
- Lick Creek Hike and Bike trail construction will begin soon.
- Sidewalk extensions into older areas of town.
- New traffic signals around town as warranted.
- Barron Road East/Lakeway Extension.

Other Projects

- Health Science Center Parkway.
- Bird Pond Road Rehabilitation.
- Cooner Street Rehabilitation is under construction.
- Rock Prairie Road West Design.
- Bringing roads up to standard (example: Royder Road Improvements).
- Raised median design on University Drive.
- Barron Road-State Highway 40 to WS Phillips Parkway.

Other Capital Projects

- Intelligent Transportation System Implementation.
- Roach Prairie Road East Rehabilitation.
- Luther Street Rehabilitation.

- Munson Street Rehabilitation.
- Graham Road Rehabilitation.

City Traffic Engineer Troy Rother discussed the area's growth and said College Station expects to have 124,000 residents by 2020. He said Texas A&M has played a large role in that growth, which has also had a large impact on the local school district. Rother said the vast amount of new residential and commercial development is increasing the amount of traffic in the city.

City staff and committee members had a short breakout session about potential projects.

Citizen Input

Art Langrish

Mr. Langrish expressed appreciation that the city has engaged the citizens. He is concerned about rapid growth leading to increased traffic without any more outlets to get around his Castlegate II neighborhood. He pointed out the issue of a huge bottleneck on Greens Prairie Road, and the exit from Victoria to Fitch. Mr. Langrish asked that the committee consider the aging population and that the public transportation system only goes part way to Fitch. As the population shifts to the south, he said the city should consider moving public transportation that way.

David Marion

Mr. Marion is concerned with FM2818 and South Holleman Drive, especially the stop light and the left turn area. The area used to be cow pastures but is now comprised of multiple multi-residential areas. Mr. Marion said we need more left turn lanes and that too many apartments are coming in that must go through that intersection. He added that we need better traffic flow on FM2818 after football games. Mr. Marion said that on North Dowling Road about ¾-mile from the city water tower is a RV park being put in that will congest the area even more on football weekends.

Joe Guerra

Mr. Guerra is concerned that projects in the neighborhood planning process will be disregarded. He pointed to areas near A&M Consolidated Middle School that do not have sidewalks, and issues in Eastgate with drainage, pavement, and parking around Thomas Park. Mr. Guerra said rehabilitation is needed. He's also concerned about TxDOT projects that require a 10-20 percent match from the city. He hopes that the city sets aside funds to provide that match. He also mentioned the Harvey Mitchell Parkway Project and the George Bush-Wellborn interchange Project.

John Polasek

Mr. Polacek said there are issues with the roadway south of W.D. Fitch to Lick Creek Park and said a new development in that area will have 175 homes, which will only increase the issue. He said the area is very dangerous for bicyclists since there are no sidewalks or shoulders.

Bryan Cole

Mr. Cole encouraged the committee and council to think about the concept of generativity -- if you aren't going to maintain something, don't create it. He said money should be set aside to maintain streets and mentioned the streets in Southwood Forest.

Jonathan Coopersmith

Mr. Coopersmith is concerned about bicyclists on Rock Prairie Road and providing sufficient space for bike lanes and infrastructure, especially on Greens Prairie Road. He said the growth of the schools requires the creation of bike lanes. Mr. Coopersmith is also looking for good north and south roads since growth is occurring to the south but the major employer (Texas A&M) is in the north part of town. He asked how A&M's bus system could be expanded to the mass public.

Tedi- Desire to get as much input as possible

Subcommittee Chair Tedi Ellison asked citizens to email additional comments.